

**MINUTES**  
**MADISON COUNTY TSEP PUBLIC HEARING #1**  
**APRIL 16, 2008**  
**ENNIS, MT**

A public hearing was opened at 4:05 P.M. at the Madison Valley Fire Hall in Ennis for the purpose of obtaining views from residents of the County regarding the Preliminary Engineering Reports and submittal of a Treasure State Endowment Program (TSEP) application for the replacement of four bridges. Present were Commissioner Jim Hart, Dan McCauley of Great West Engineering, and four members of the public (see attached sign in sheet). Seeing that there were few members of the public present, Commissioner Hart stated that he felt that perhaps this was due to the March 12, 2008 meeting recently held in Ennis regarding the overall Madison County bridge needs and people having attended that meeting.

Jim turned the meeting over to Dan. Dan discussed the TSEP program, noting that it is a State of Montana program, administered by the Department of Commerce and funded from interest off of Coal Trust Fund revenues. Applications are due May 2, 2008, and the legislature will make formal approval of projects next winter. Eligible applicants include Counties, Cities, Towns, Districts and Tribes and may request up to a \$500,000 grant but must provide at least a 50% match. Dan further stated that the County has used the TSEP program aggressively for its bridge needs, and this is the fourth application to be submitted to TSEP since 2002. Other communities in the County have also benefited from the program including projects for water and wastewater in Twin Bridges, water in Sheridan, wastewater in Alder, water and wastewater in Virginia City, water and wastewater in Ennis and wastewater in Harrison.

Dan provided and went through in detail a handout for everyone to follow (see attached handout). He explained the four proposed bridge projects: the Duncan District Road Bridge over the Ruby River, the Waterloo Road Bridge over the Parrot Canal, and the two Jack Creek Bridges over Jack Creek. He discussed the current issues with each bridge, explained the proposed improvements and went through the estimated costs. Dan noted that detailed information was included in the PERs which were available for review at the meeting and the commission office. Dan said that should the project be funded, the bridge improvements would occur no sooner than fall of 2009 but more likely during 2010.

Dan then explained the TSEP application and its contents. The total project cost is \$826,406 of which the County will have to provide up to \$380,989 in cash, and \$17,214 in in-kind services to match the TSEP share of \$413,203. He further explained that the county was also getting credit for an additional \$15,000 used as match for preparation of the PERs. It was stated that the project will not involve a raise in existing taxes to the constituents since the County's match is coming from its normal operating budget.

Jim opened the hearing for questions.

Mike asked about issues on the Jack Creek bridges with the Forest Service and Fish Wildlife and Parks. Dan stated that these agencies as well others will be contacted and worked with during the final design to ensure that permits are secured.

Joe had a question on the construction time of the two Jack Creek bridges. Dan said that at this point we are figuring on using a temporary detour around each bridge but the area is so tight that it may not be possible when working thorough the agencies for permits. He said that the road may have to be closed for a few days in order for the work to be done. Jim stated that there is a lot of traffic that uses the road and that coordination will be key.

All showed support for the project with no opposition.

The Hearing adjourned at 4:55 P.M.